

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 23952 181212Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DOTE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 /043 W

-----026137 181219Z /53

P 181207Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9705

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 23952

USDOC FOR MEPD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, BENC, TH

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT: LAEM CHABANG/SATTAHIP PORT DEVELOP-
MENT

REF: BANGKOK 19055

1. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS' AND NESDB'S OFFICIALS ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY PRESS REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO SHELF LAEM CHABANG'S DEVELOPMENT IN FAVOR OF EXPANDING SATTAHIP AS A COMMERCIAL DEEP-SEA PORT. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL DECISION BY THE CABINET, AND, THUS, THERE IS STILL NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE CABINET TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (MOC) REQUIRING THE MINISTRY TO HALT DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR LAEM CHABANG IN FAVOR OF SATTAHIP. NEVERTHELESS, MINISTRY'S OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT ALL WORK RELATED TO LAEM CHABANG'S DEVELOPMENT HAS COME TO A HALT PENDING A FORMAL CABINET DECISION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 23952 181212Z

2. MOC HAS LONG BEEN IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW DEEP-SEA PORT AT LAEM CHABANG FOR REASONS LISTED IN EMBASSY'S EARLIER CABLES. FOLLOWING A RECENT VISIT BY WORLD BANK OFFICIALS WHO DECLINED TO FINANCE A LAEM CHABANG PROJECT AND RECOMMENDED EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SATTAHIP AS A CIVILIAN DEEP-SEA PORT, NESDB BEGAN LOBBYING IN THE CABINET FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SATTAHIP

RATHER THAN LAEM CHABANG. MOC'S OFFICIALS ARE UNABLE TO REFUTE NESDB'S ARGUMENTS THAT DEVELOPMENT OF SATTAHIP WOULD REQUIRE LOWER INVESTMENT COSTS, SHORTER DEVELOPMENT PERIOD, AVAILABILITY OF ALREADY EXISTING FACILITIES, LOWER TRANSPORTATION COSTS, MORE AVAILABLE FRESH WATER, AND, THUS, EASIER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MOC'S OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED THAT IN THE LONG TERM, SATTAHIP'S EXPANSION IS RESTRICTED BY GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATIONS.

3. INSPITE OF CONTINUING LOBBYING EFFORTS OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF RTG AND PRIVATE SECTOR AND ABSENCE OF WRITTEN CONFIRMATION BY CABINET, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT KRIANGSAK HAS ALREADY MADE A FINAL DECISION. PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAEM CHABANG WILL BE SHELVED INDEFINITELY AND SATTAHIP WILL BE CONVERTED TO A COMMERCIAL PORT. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS DECISION SOON.
ABRAMOWITZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO23952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780338-0181
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780845/aaaablpg.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c40e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 19055
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1686563
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT: LAEM CHABANG/SATTAHIP PORT DEVELOP- MENT
TAGS: BEXP, BENC, TH
To: COM STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c40e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014